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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

14 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR Secretary of the Air Force
 Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Director of Defense Research and Engineering
 Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration)
 Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)
 Assistant Secretary of Defense (Systems Analysis)
 Director, National Reconnaissance Office
 Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Reconnaissance Program (U)

Prior to making definitive FY 69 program/budget decisions or FY 70 program/budget decisions related to the drone program (e.g. TAGBOARD, 154, 147) and the U-2/SR-71 program, I should like to see a joint assessment which incorporates your respective views on these programs which I consider should be treated as a totality. I plan to use the assessment as a basic reference in making final decisions involving the Department of Defense reconnaissance activities and related EXCOM matters.

If appropriate, the assessment should include alternatives to the currently approved drone and U-2/SR-71 programs together with the impact of such alternatives on other elements of our over-all reconnaissance effort. Points of agreement and disagreement should be set forth clearly, as well as any differing rationale.

I request the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration) to establish a group chaired by a representative of his office and composed of representatives of each of the other addressees of this memorandum to complete the assessment by 1 November 1968.

Please provide him with such other assistance as he may require.

NRO, DIA & USAF REVIEWS

Paul H. Nitze

NRO

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Copies to:

Director of Central Intelligence
 25X1 Director, Bureau of the Budget
 Director, Office of Science and Technology

MORI/CDF

GROUP 1

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DATE: _____



Office of the DD/S&T

TO: D/OSA

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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REMARKS:

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Don:

Your people should be aware of the study outlined in the attached paper. You will note that U-2's are mentioned but it is not clear whether this is to be restricted to SAC aircraft or is to also include IDEALIST. I discussed this with Adm. Taylor and you will note that his comments were that we should not plan any direct participation unless requested. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Mr. Bross' staff will sit in as an observer and provide us some feed back as the study progresses. I see nothing required of us at this time but we will obviously be interested in the results and any proposed actions that result from it.

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DD/S&T

JP
This is a most significant directive will undoubtedly direct the fate of our programme. 25X1 would like to know how it will keep close touch with NRO people at our level.

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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks: Please note DDCI's handwritten comment:

"I think we should make no effort to get in on this in the study stage unless asked.

"I think we should rely on Deputy SecDef to seek our comment when appropriate. He knows our interests."

/s/ T

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FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
EA/DDCI			20 Aug 68
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MEMORANDUM FOR: D D S + T

I think we should make no effort to get in on this in the study stage unless asked.

I think we shall rely on Deputy SECDEF to seek our comment when appropriate.

He knows our interests (DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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